



**TOPS Working Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2015**

Members Present: Lee Milner, Leslie Thomas, Becky Wegner, Jason Alwine, Cathy Grossman, Sarah Musick, Nancy Hobbs, and Jeff Morhmann

Members Absent: Joe Lavorini

Alternate Members Present: Jim Klever

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Present: Scot Hume

Citizens Advisory Committee Members Absent: Jackie Hilaire

Staff Present: PR&CS— Chris Lieber, Tori Johnson, Kurt Schroeder

Leslie Thomas brought the meeting to order at 7:33am.

Agenda Preview

There were no changes to the agenda as presented

Announcements

Chris Lieber—

- The new disc golf course, “The Aviary,” had a successful opening and its operations are going as planned
- Chris mentioned that RFPs for management plans have been advertised for the Stratton Open Space, Bluestem Open Space, and University Park Open Space
- Two new pedestrian bridges have been installed along TOPS funded trails: the Sand Creek Trail at Dublin and the Cottonwood Trail at Vincent
- Construction on the Popsicle Bridge is underway and almost completed

Approval of Minutes

Motion – to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2015 meeting.

- Leslie Thomas/Nancy Hobbs Approved – Unanimous

Citizen Discussion

Bill Koerner (TOSC)

- Gave information about “Meeting in a Box” in Manitou on August 10, 2015. The meeting planned to discuss the urban plan for the Ute Valley Pass Regional Trail. He encouraged the committee to attend the meeting to comment positively on the plan.

Action Items

- There were no action items to vote on

Presentation Items

- Voth Property – Request for Letter of Support for GOCO Grant Application
 - Presented by Wade Burkeholder and Nancy Fortuin
 - Information was presented about the Voth property: it is 33.48 acres and priced by the owner for \$350,000
 - There is access to the property from Black Canyon Road
 - The property has many trail areas that could loop with the already standing trails owned by Manitou Springs. The Voth property could also connect to the trail system in Garden of the Gods.
 - Throughout the property, the fountain rock formation can be found similar to Garden of the Gods
 - The Voth property also has many cultural aspects; found to be sacred by the Ute tribe, there are many cultural markers of the past on this property, such as remnants of fire pits, Ute Indian “Prayer Trees,” and paths used by covered wagons back to 1907.
 - The goal is to preserve the property as an open space; a letter from TOPS supporting the acquisition would be very helpful in getting grant funding from Great Outdoors Colorado
 - Without the grant funding, City Council will not permit the acquisition
 - An appraisal will be done by August 30, 2015 and the final sale will take place on December 30, 2015
- Proposed Excess Revenue Ballot Measure – Trail Repair and Renovation
 - Chris Lieber presented a list of trails and the opportunities to address significant problems throughout the city
 - Some of the problems are potholes on trails or ADA Standards not being met
 - Also, significant signage and ramps needed to be added to certain trails
 - Heat mapping was used to identify the problem areas
 - Funding is approved, and improvements would be made to the following trails:
 - a. The Homestead Trail (3/4 mile)
 - b. Palmer Mesa Trail (1.25 miles)
 - c. Pikes Peak Greenway (1.25 miles)
 - d. Filmore – Rock Island and Mark Dabbling – I-25 (3/4 mile)
 - e. Rock Island Trail – Circle to Academy
 - f. Sand Creek Trail – Airport to Hancock
 - g. Shook’s Run Trail (1/2 mile)
 - h. Sinton Trail (1/2 mile)
 - i. Skyline Trail (2 miles)
 - The Park System Master Plan process identified 33.2 miles of total trails requiring repairs. The proposed list of projects would address 30% of the needed improvements.
 - The plan is to repair trails in such a way that they will last 50 years instead of 5 to 10 years
 - These projects will be presented to City Council on August 10, 2015
 - Nancy Hobbs asked about the designated dollar amount, to which Chris replied that it would be about \$2.1 million solely for trail repairs.
- Update of City Code in Accordance with TOPS Ordinance
 - Chris Lieber explained that there is a need to bring the City Code into compliance with the voter approved TOPS Ordinance

- The City is currently using the same code and language from the 2003 TOPS Extension Ballot Measure
- The proposed changes include: Revising the code in accordance with voter approval to reflect the frequency of TOPS audits from biannual to biennial, revising the code in accordance to voter approval to reflect the recent changes to the TOPS Parks category to provide more flexibility
- There will be no changes to the ordinance, only the City Code
- Update on Colorado Natural Areas Designation at Corral Bluffs
 - Chris Lieber informed TOPS Working Committee about a Colorado Natural Areas Meeting taking place in Colorado Springs on September 25, 2015
 - The meeting will include a tour of Corral Bluffs
 - If the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department decide to put the property on the Natural Area state map, there will be a formal designation process
 - Putting the property on the “map” would open up an opportunity for higher education institutions to study the property and help preserve it
 - It could possibly become an area for paleontological studies
 - This would not be a conservation easement, nor would it be legally binding – just a designation within Colorado Natural Areas Program
 - This document would pass along with Corral Bluffs, keeping the property’s original values of conservation
 - There is no mandate within the designation for the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department to manage the property to any specific standard
 - Cathy Grossman asked about when to start a management plan, to which Chris Lieber replied that there is no time frame, and there is still no public access to Corral Bluffs beyond the tours being offered by the Corral Bluffs Alliance

Staff Reports

- 2016 CIP Budget Update from Chris Lieber
 - The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board supported staff’s recommendations for funding stewardship efforts on TOPS properties – including funding for education and a full time ranger position
 - The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board requested a greater emphasis on repairs and renovations throughout Garden of the Gods
 - The 2016 General Fund CIP Budget places a heavy emphasis on advancing city-wide storm water projects

Citizen Discussion

- There was no further citizen discussion

Closed Session

- Motion to move to closed session
 - Jason Alwine/ Cathy Grossman

Adjournment

There being no further business, the committee adjourned the meeting at 9:48